

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 5275

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID, UNDP
SUBJ: 24TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: AGENDA ITEM 9 - COUNTRY AND
INTER-COUNTRY PROGRAMMING AND PROJECTS (DP/270)

1. WHEREAS IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL THIS ITEM
WAS DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE MEETINGS, THE PRESIDENT ADOPTED A
FLEXIBLE PROCEDURE: AN OPEN SESSION WOULD BE CONDUCTED
EXCEPT IN CASES DELEGATIONS PROPOSED OTHERWISE. AS IT
TURNED OUT, THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION PERIOD WAS CONDUCTED
IN OPEN SESSION.

2. THE ITEM WAS INTRODUCED BY THE ASST ADMINISTRATOR
FOR PROGRAM POLICY WHO MADE REFERENCE TO THE OVERVIEW PAPER
DP/270 WHICH GAVE A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTRY
PROGRAM PROCESS DURING THE CURRENT CYCLE AS CONTRASTED WITH
THE FIRST. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE 14 PROGRAMS SUBMITTED FOR
THE COUNCIL'S REVIEW AND APPROVAL SHOW A MARKED IMPROVEMENT:
A PROGRAM APPROACH RATHER A PROJECT-BY-PROJECT APPROACH IS
EVIDENT; THERE IS GREATER CONCENTRATION OF EFFORT IN
CERTAIN SECTORS: THE LINKAGE BETWEEN PRE-INVESTMENT
ACTIVITIES AND CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IS CLOSER; PROGRAM
EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MEETING
THE NEEDS OF THE POOR. THE IMPOSITION OF ANNUAL
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EXPENDITURE CEILINGS HAS TO SOME EXTENT IMPEDED PLANNING
OVER THE FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMMING CY LE.

3. THE DISCUSSION PROCEEDED TO A REGION-BY-REGION
REVIEW.

4. THE ASST ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA HIGHLIGHTED

SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL FEATURES ON THE 7 AFRICAN COUNTRY PROGRAMS UNDER REVIEW (BOTSWANA, CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, GUINEA-BISSAU, IVORY COAST, RWANDA AND ZAMBIA): THE HIGH PROPORTION OF NEW PROJECTS PROPOSED; EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT; CONCENTRATION OF RESOURCES IN CERTAIN SECTORS, INCLUDING COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. WITH REGARD TO THE PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE OAU, IT WAS STATED THAT THE 6 MILLION DOLLARS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL WAS VIRTUALLY FULLY COMMITTED AND THAT EXTRA FUNDS WERE REQUIRED. THE ASST ADMINISTRATOR REQUESTED THE COUNCIL'S GUIDANCE ON THE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE (4 MILLION DOLLARS) PROPOSED TO THE FIVE AFRICAN QUOTE FRONT LINE END QUOTE STATES. HE APPEALED FOR INCREASED AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES (ANGOLA, CAPE VERDE, ETC.) AND RECOMMENDED A HIGHER IPF (BY 500,000 DOLLARS) FOR THE TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS. SPOKESMEN FOR THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (WHO HAVE OBSERVER STATUS ON THE COUNCIL) TOOK THE FLOOR TO APPEAL FOR GREATER SUPPORT. THEY DESCRIBED THE SUFFERING OF THEIR PEOPLE, ATTACKED COLONIAL POLICIES AND, FOR THE MOST PART, THANKED THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR FOR SUPPORTING THEIR EFFORTS.

5. THERE WERE 14 ADDITIONAL INTERVENTIONS SUPPORTING THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN QUESTION AND THE SEVEN UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRY PROGRAMS, AND ASSURING THE COUNCIL THAT BILATERAL PROGRAMS WERE WELL MESHED IN WITH THE UNDP'S EFFORT.

6. THE ASST ADMINISTRATOR FOR LATIN AMERICA SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE TWO COUNTRY PROGRAMS (BOLIVIA AND ECUADOR) UNDER REVIEW AND NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT: THERE WAS A CONCENTRATION ON LARGE-SCALE ACTIVITIES; COST-SHARING WAS PROPORTIONATELY HIGHER IN LATIN AMERICA THAN IN OTHER REGIONS; LINKAGES WITH ECLA AND IDB ARE STRENGTHENED; A GREATER USE OF RECIPIENT GOVERNMENT EXPERTISE IS MADE THAN PREVIOUSLY, AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS ARE MAKING FULLER USE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. FOUR LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS SPOKE TO ENDORSE THE TWO COUNTRY PROGRAMS.

7. THE ASST ADMINISTRATOR FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST INTRODUCED THE THREE COUNTRY PROGRAMS (MALAYSIA, PAKISTAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA) AND REPORTED ON MEETINGS HE HAD RECENTLY HELD WITH THE ADB, ESCAP AND THE RESREPS IN HIS REGION. THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES EXPRESSED THEIR RESERVATIONS ABOUT UNDP ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH KOREA. NORWAY AND THE NETHERLANDS SPOKE OF THEIR

BILATERAL EFFORTS IN PAKISTAN. OTHER DELEGATIONS
(INDONESIA, IRAN, THILAND, US, JAPAN) ENDORSED THE
THREE PROGRAMS.

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8. THE ASST ADMINISTRATOR FOR EUROPE, THE MEDITER-
RANEAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE TWO
COUNTRY PROGRAMS (POLAND AND TURKEY) UNDER REVIEW. IN
ADDITION, HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE SITUATION IN
LEBANON (WHERE THE IPF MAY WELL HAVE TO BE INCREASED ONCE
THE GOVERNMENT HAS DEVELOPED A PROGRAM), THE SUEZ
REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM (THE REGION'S
LARGEST EFFORT FOR WHICH 9.6 MILLION DOLLARS OUT OF A
PROJECTED REQUIREMENT OF 15 MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN
COMMITTED), THE NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY LINKING THE BALTIC
SEA TO THE MIDDLE EAST (FOR WHICH PLANNING IS UNDERWAY
WITH THE ECE) AND THE REQUIREMENTS TO MEET THE ROMANIA

EARTHQUAKE PROGRAM (FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS
REQUESTED 3 MILLION DOLLARS). THE LEBANESE AND EGYPTIAN
AMBASSADORS TOOK THE FLOOR TO DESCRIBE THEIR RESPECTIVE
NEEDS AND TO APPEAL FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. (IN
RESPONSE TO THE SECY GENERAL'S APPEAL ON BEHALF
OF LEBANON, CONTRIBUTINGS TOTALLING ONLY 12 MILLION
DOLLARS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM 12 COUNTRIES). IN THE
18 INTERVENTIONS WHICH FOLLOWED SYMPATHY WAS EXPRESSED
FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE LEBANESE, EGYPTIAN AND ROMANIAN
PEOPLE AND APPROVAL WAS RECOMMENDED FOR THE TWO COUNTRY
PROGRAMS.

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9. THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR SUBSEQUENTLY INTRODUCED THE SINGLE GLOBAL PROJECT BEFORE THE COUNCIL, QUOTE THE INTEGRATED COTTON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM END QUOTE. HE NOTED THAT THE PROJECT WAS A COOPERATIVE ONE AND HAD BEEN FORMULATED IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE IBRD AND THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION: ITS AIM WAS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF MAKING COTTON MORE COMPETITIVE ON THE WORLD MARKET; ONLY 125,000 DOLLARS WAS NEEDED FOR THE CURRENT PREPARATORY PHASE BUT THAT MORE WOULD MORE LIKELY BE NEEDED IN 1978; THE FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF SUDAN HAD BEEN SELECTED AS PROJECT MANAGER.

10. SEVERAL COMMENTS ON THE OVERALL SUBMISSION OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMS WERE MADE BY 15 DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE US (A COPY OF THE US STATEMENT, DELIVERED BY SALES, IS BEING SENT SEPARATELY). THERE WAS GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF ALL THE PROPOSED PROGRAMS.

11. THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR AND ASST ADMINISTRATOR FOR PROGRAM POLICY RESPONDED TO THE OVERALL OBSERVATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO THE US COMMENTS REGARDING THE NEED TO FOCUS ON BASIC NEEDS, THEY EMPHASIZED THAT THE UNDP PROGRAM WAS ALREADY POVERTY-ORIENTED BUT THAT THE PROJECT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM DID NOT LEND ITSELF TO A MORE SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION OF RECIPIENTS. THEY, HOWEVER, ALLOWED THAT QUESTIONS SHOULD BE RAISED TO DETERMINE HOW CERTAIN PROJECTS COULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO BENEFIT THE POOR. A SPECIFIC REFERENCE WAS ALSO MADE, AGAIN, IN RESPONSE TO THE US STATEMENT, TO WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT ON WHICH MORE WOULD BE REPORTED ON NEXT YEAR. SORENSON

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